



## **District of Columbia Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) Returning Members**

**April 24, 2019**

*Note: These biographies were provided to MCAC members at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, Committee members had not been offered an opportunity to update their bios from the previous year and the bios may be slightly out-of-date.*

### **Guy Durant**

**Term: Through 9/30/19**

Guy Durant was a Medicaid beneficiary and is an advocate for quality of care and services for beneficiaries. He previously worked as a contractor for over 14 years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and for a short period during the 2011 BRAC, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. During those years, Mr. Durant helped manage Clinical Trials and Research Data with all aspects of technology. Primarily, he has focused on medical research and development and specialized in several niche I.T. sectors such as: Healthcare and Real Estate where automation and technology needs abound. Mr. Durant enjoys volunteering at his church and setting up the computer network and systems for the church. Recently, he helped upgrade the Church Phone System and added FIOS to the Church. In addition, Mr. Durant is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and other community organizations. He is an alum of Talladega College with a Bachelors in Physics and Math, and also has two Masters degrees from University of Maryland University College. Mr. Durant seeks to bring to the MCAC a social justice spirit of someone that has worked previously in Health Care I.T. and someone that now sees the outcomes and disparities of the system from the beneficiary point of view. He hopes to look closely at the benchmarks, data and goals of the MCAC to help in any way that can to improve efficiency and care for all beneficiaries.

### **Sharra E. Greer**

**Children's Law Center**

**Term: Through 9/30/19**

Sharra joined Children's Law Center as its first policy director in 2008, shaping a program that takes lessons we learn from representing individual clients to advocate for city-wide changes that better serve the District's vulnerable children. She brings with her extensive policy experience. Previously, Sharra developed the policy department at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, where she created and supervised that department, and supervised the group's successful legal

services and impact litigation efforts. She also was a staff attorney with the National Veterans Legal Services Program, where she worked on cases before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and represented plaintiffs' in two class action suits through NVLSP's Agent Orange Resource Center. Sharra began her legal services work while at Rutgers Law School, when she worked at Camden Regional Legal Services, and was an associate with the firm of Weissman & Mintz.

### **Suzanne Jackson**

#### **The George Washington Law School, Health Insurance Counseling Project**

**Term: Through 9/30/19**

Suzanne H. Jackson teaches the Health Rights Law Clinic as a Professor of Clinical Law at George Washington Law School, in which law students help their clients secure access to health care through public programs and private health insurance. She also co-directs the Health Insurance Counseling Project, a public interest law firm within the Community Legal Clinics, which assists thousands of Medicare beneficiaries each year. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she received a fellowship from Georgetown Law Center's Women, Law and Public Policy program, working on health insurance and family caregiving issues at the Older Women's League. She clerked for the Honorable Gladys Kessler at the D.C. Superior Court, and then served as staff attorney and managing attorney at Ayuda, representing immigrant and refugee women in actions for protective orders against domestic violence. Professor Jackson has received awards for her work from the D.C. Superior Court's Hispanic Heritage Committee, from Ayuda, and from the D.C. Coalition against Domestic Violence. In 2004 she was elected chair of the D.C. Department of Health's Medical Care Advisory Committee, assisting the District's Medicaid program with policy and program issues. She also co-chaired a coalition that won passage of legislation allowing the city's Adult Protective Services division to assist vulnerable adults at risk of harm from self-neglect.

### **Mark LeVota<sup>1</sup>**

#### **DC Behavioral Health Association**

**Term: Through 9/30/19**

Mark LeVota joined the DC Behavioral Health Association as its new executive director in May 2016. Mark comes to DCBHA from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, where he worked for nearly eleven years, including as the Director of Institutional Giving for the past eight years. Mark's fundraising and program development experience have included supporting operating activities and capital costs for behavioral health, physical health and legal clinical services, housing and homeless services, education and employment services, food and hunger

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<sup>1</sup> Member at Large; Chair, Access Sub-Committee

relief services, services for people with developmental disabilities, and services meeting emergency basic needs. Mark earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, where he was a member of the first cohort for the MBA for Global Executives (GEMBA) format, studying general management with a focus on diversity and cross-cultural communications. Mark and his wife Janet Baran, a marine geophysicist and management analyst in the federal government, share a love of US National Parks.

## **Judith Levy<sup>2</sup>**

### **DC Coalition on Long Term Care**

#### **Term: Through 9/30/20**

Judith Levy, MHSA, BSN, RN, is the Coordinator of the District of Columbia Coalition on Long Term Care. The Coalition includes advocates, consumers and providers addressing the major issues surrounding the availability of home and community based services to low income residents of the District and is former Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging. Ms. Levy has also served as a consultant to the National Association of Home and Hospice Care on their home health aide certification program. Working with the DC Primary Care Association as program manager for an Area Health Education Center Office, Ms. Levy developed a model training program for community health workers in collaboration with The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach at the University of Southern Mississippi, and participated in expanding medical homes program activities aimed at improving the quality of services provided by the safety net clinic in the District of Columbia. Her responsibilities included training for professional and support staff, emergency preparedness, board development, adolescent health and program evaluation. Ms. Levy has also consulted on chronic care and long-term care initiatives including home care, assisted living, group homes for the IDD population, care management and home and community based programs for the aged and disabled. She has worked with the District of Columbia Board of Nursing to develop a medication assistant program and on initiatives including the Committee on Impaired Nurses and Nurses Disciplinary Action program. Ms. Levy is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Public Health with a Masters in Health Services Administration. She has over thirty-five years of experience in health care service delivery and administration primarily in home and community based programs.

## **Ian Paregol**

### **DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers**

#### **Term: Through 9/30/20**

Ian Paregol serves as the Executive Director of the DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers. Focused upon providing support and services consistent with choice to people with intellectual

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<sup>2</sup> Chair, Long Term Services and Supports Sub-Committee

and other disabilities, as the director of the Coalition, he ensures continuing progress toward greater quality of life for those with intellectual disabilities and other disabilities who reside in and around the greater Washington, D.C. area. Mr. Paregol also sits the DC Mortality Review Committee and the DC Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) Advisory Committee. Prior to coming to the District, Ian served on the Maryland Commission on Autism, the Maryland State Commission on Disabilities, the Maryland State Task Force on Trauma Informed Care. Prior to working with the DC Coalition, Ian lead Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC) as its Executive Director for a decade. Mr. Paregol has a law degree from the Dickinson School of Law, and he is licensed to practice in DC, Maryland and Massachusetts. He a graduate of the University of Delaware.

### **Eva Ruiz**

#### **GW Cancer Center**

**Term: Through 9/30/20**

Eva has been a patient navigator at the GW Cancer Center for five years. As a navigator she works closely with the medical team to reduce logistical barriers to care for cancer patients in the DC area. Prior to joining GW she worked for the American Cancer Society for eight years as a cancer information specialist. Eva studied biology at Georgia State University.

### **Veronica Damesyn Sharpe**

#### **District of Columbia Health Care Association**

**Term: Through 9/30/20**

Veronica Sharpe, MHSA serves as the President of the District of Columbia Health Care Association (DCHCA). DCHA represents all of the non- Federal skilled nursing facilities in the District and ten (10) Assisted Living providers. Ms. Sharpe has previously served in hospital management positions at Coral Reef Hospital and South Miami Hospital in Miami Florida. Ms. Sharpe participates in several national and local health-related committees and serves on the Board of Directors of Quality Health Strategies, in Easton, Maryland the National Center for Assisted Living, Washington, DC. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Maryland and received her Master's in Health Services Administration from The George Washington University.

### **Tamara Smith<sup>3</sup>**

#### **DC Primary Care Association**

**Term: Through 9/30/20**

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<sup>3</sup> Chair, Health System Re-Design Sub-Committee

Tamara A. Smith, President and CEO of the DC Primary Care Association is a goals driven results-oriented executive with over 34 years of experience in the health care services and nonprofit sectors in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Her areas of expertise include: executive leadership, governance, strategic planning, business development, operations, advocacy and marketing. She is a highly motivated, decisive leader who has lead business turnarounds with a focus on achieving business objectives. She believes that through building partnerships and collaborations we can achieve real social impact. Tamara joined the DCPCA team in May 2017. Formerly she served on the board of directors of the DCPCA and has served as an officer and board member on several local association and nonprofit organizational boards. She has received numerous civic and community service awards. She is passionate about improving health outcomes and working to transform the health care service sector. Currently she serves as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for the Center for Nonprofit Advancement.

### **Returning Ex-Officio Members**

#### **DC Office on Aging**

##### **Laura Newland—Director; Designee—Christian Barrera**

Laura Newland is the Executive Director for the District of Columbia Office on Aging (DCOA). Prior to this position, she served as DCOA's Interim General Counsel and supported the agency on a broad range of legal and policy issues as part of the senior management team. Before coming to the agency, Laura served as Special Assistant for Community Living in the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services (DMHHS), where she worked primarily on interagency long-term care and real property tax issues in the District. Laura has worked at AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE), where she directed the Real Property Tax Project. She spearheaded the community advocacy and litigation strategy that led to significant legislative reform in 2014 and the creation of the Real Property Tax Lien Ombudsman. Laura's professional roots are in advocacy. Before receiving her JD from Georgetown Law Center, she worked in a variety of nonprofit settings, spanning numerous issues including domestic violence, jail-based voting and registration, and consumer protection. The theme of her professional career has been identifying and removing barriers so people can more easily access available services and supports to help them live better lives.

Christian Barrera serves as the Special Assistant in the Executive Office of the Director at the DC Office on Aging (DCOA). He is responsible for supporting the Director and Chief of Staff with the agency's policy, programmatic, performance and funding priorities to ensure older adults in the District age in place in the communities they know and love. Prior to joining DCOA, Christian served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS). In this capacity, Christian led policy priorities and assisted the Deputy Mayor with the coordination of a comprehensive system of benefits, services, and supports across multiple city agencies. Christian has worked in various

capacities within DC Government, the U.S. House of Representatives, the Smithsonian Institution, and in the nonprofit sector. Christian has served as a member of several bodies in the District, including: the District of Columbia Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board, the State Innovation Model Advisory Committee (SIM), the DC Collaborative for Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care, and the District of Columbia Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC), among others. Christian received his Bachelor of Arts in Human Services with a minor in Sociology from the George Washington University and studied abroad at the University of Cambridge, England, where he studied history. He attended graduate school at Harvard University where he pursued a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a concentration in Government and Public Policy.

## **Department of Behavioral Health**

### **Interim Senior Deputy Director -Atiya Frame**

## **Department of Disability Services**

### **Director—Andrew Reese; Designee—Gregory Banks**

Andrew Reese was appointed by Mayor Bowser as the Interim Director of the Department on Disability Services on April 22, 2016, and as Acting Director on September 6, 2016. Prior to this he served as the Deputy Director of the Department on Disability Services (DDS), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) since December, 2012. RSA is the District agency responsible for vocational rehabilitation services (VR) in the District, responsible for helping people with disabilities obtain, retain, regain or advance in employment. Prior to being appointed as the Deputy Director for DDS, Mr. Reese served as the Deputy General Counsel for DDS. Mr. Reese worked with the DC Office of the Attorney General from 2003-4, in the Child Protection Section. He returned to the Office of the Attorney General in 2008, as the Deputy Attorney General for the Family Services Division. Mr. Reese is an attorney, admitted to the bar in DC and MD, and a licensed clinical social worker. He has worked in both the public and non-profit sectors, as well as serving ten years as a clinical instructor on the faculty of the University of MD at Baltimore, in the School of Social Work and the Law School. Mr. Reese began his social work career in 1984 working with refugee and immigrant families from Vietnam, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Central America. He is fluent in Spanish. He has extensive child welfare experience, working in foster care and child protection in MD and DC.

Gregory M. Banks, MPA currently serves as a Program Development Specialist for the District of Columbia's Department on Disability Services in the State Office of the Director. As Program Development Specialist, Mr. Banks is responsible for the Home and Community Based Settings Waiver which provides services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Greg also serves on the Human Rights Advisory Committee for the Department on

Disability Services which was formed to protect and promote the human, civil and legal rights of all people receiving supports and services through DDS service delivery system. Greg also works with at-risk teenagers throughout the District providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth with alternatives to street violence. He works as an advocate raising awareness on the impact domestic violence has on children. He served in the Marine Corps, attended Hampton University and received in Masters in Public Administration from Strayer University. Prior to working with the Department on Disability Services, Greg worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles as a District Manager over DMV's outreach programs.

## **Department of Health**

### **Director— LaQuandra S. Nesbitt**

Dr. Nesbitt became the Director of DC's Department of Health in in January 2015. Dr. Nesbitt leads Mayor Muriel Bowser's health and wellness initiative, FitDC, and serves key leadership roles in addressing critical public health issues such as the use of synthetic drugs, the impact of medical marijuana and decriminalization of marijuana possession on public health, as well as innovation in healthcare delivery and its impact on high cost, high need and other special populations. Prior to her role in DC, Dr. Nesbitt served as the Director of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness where she led initiatives focused on Affordable Care Act implementation, health equity, and violence prevention. She was appointed by Governor Beshear as a member of Kentucky's Early Childhood Advisory Council and now serves in a similar capacity on DC's State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council. Dr. Nesbitt serves nationally as a member of the Commonwealth Fund Health Care Delivery System Reform Program National Advisory Group. Dr. Nesbitt received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan, her medical degree from Wayne State University, and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed an internship in family medicine at the University Hospitals of Cleveland/Case Western Reserve University and completed the remainder of her family medicine residency in the University of Maryland's Department of Family Medicine where she served as chief resident. Dr. Nesbitt completed her training with the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

## **Department of Health Care Finance**

### **Medicaid Director -Melisa Byrd**

Melisa Byrd is the Senior Deputy Director / Medicaid Director of the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF). In this role, Ms. Byrd serves as the principal manager for the District's Medicaid, CHIP, Alliance and Immigrant Children's programs. Melisa directs the day-to-day organization, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the programs to ensure compliance with federal and District laws. Melisa advises the DHCF Director on all major policy and budget

issues related to DHCF's health care programs. Previously, Ms. Byrd served as the agency's Chief of Staff and as the Associate Director of the Office of the Public Provider Liaison.

Prior to returning to the Department as the Medicaid Director in October 2018, Ms. Byrd was a Senior Consultant with Health Management Associates (HMA) where she consulted with public and private entities across the nation on Medicaid, health care reform, and reproductive health.

Before initially joining DC Medicaid in 2008, Melisa served as Policy Advisor to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health. Melisa led the Department's efforts to expand health insurance coverage to uninsured adults and worked on the state's efforts to restore and redesign the health care delivery system in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Melisa began her career at the National Governors Association in Washington, DC, where she was a policy analyst in the Health Division of the Center for Best Practices. Ms. Byrd received her Bachelor of Arts in Government from Wofford College in 2000.

## **Department of Human Services**

### **Director—Laura Zeilinger; Designee—Trey Long**

Ms. Zeilinger is responsible for a 973-person agency that is charged with assisting low-income individuals and families to maximize their potential for economic security and self-sufficiency. Ms. Zeilinger is an attorney with a long-standing commitment to underserved populations. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, where she was responsible for the implementation of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, an effort that includes the coordination of Federal homelessness policies among 19 Federal departments and agencies, as well as partnerships with State and local communities, non-profits, and the private sector. She joined USICH in 2011, and prior to her appointment as Executive Director in 2014, she served as Deputy Director. Previously, Ms. Zeilinger served at the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) as Deputy Director for Program Operations. There, she led the creation of more than 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing as part of the Homeless No More Plan. She designed and implemented the District's Housing First Initiative, which connected 500 individuals and 80 families to housing stability in its first year alone. Prior to her work with DHS, Ms. Zeilinger served as the Mayor's liaison to DHS and the Office of Disability Rights. Ms. Zeilinger is an alumna of Sarah Lawrence College and a graduate of the Washington College of Law at American University. She lives in Washington, DC, with her husband and two children.

Trey Long leads the Division of Program Operations (DPO) within the DHS Economic Security Administration. DPO delivers services through five Service Centers located throughout the District of Columbia. Eligibility workers in these centers and other DPO offices determine and renew eligibility for a number of benefit programs, including Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), General Public Assistance for Children (GPA), Interim Disability Assistance



(IDA), Medicaid, Alliance, Food Stamps, Refugee Services, and Burial Assistance. Trey is focused on improving accuracy, timeliness, and the overall customer experience for District residents by focusing on staff training needs, streamlining complex business processes, and making better use of technology and data.

## **District of Columbia Public Schools**

### **Director—Lewis Ferebee; Designee—Diana Bruce**

Diana Bruce has more than 20 years' experience in child and adolescent health, reproductive health, HIV/STI prevention and sexuality education. As Director of Health and Wellness for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Diana leads DCPS's school health office, developing policies, programs, systems and partnerships that enable local schools to provide school health services and supports for students, including DCPS's programming to make its school welcoming and inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students, staff and families. Prior to joining DCPS, Diana was the Director of Policy and Government Affairs of AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, DC, and served temporarily as its Co-Interim Executive Director. An alumna of the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor's in Journalism, Diana also holds a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

## **Office of Health Care Ombudsman**

### **Administrator—Maude Holt**

Maude Regenia Holt is the Administrator and Health Care Ombudsman for the Office of Health Care Ombudsman and Bill of Rights for the District of Columbia's Department of Health Care Finance. Ms. Holt, a native of Alabama, brings over twenty-five years of experience in health care administration and management. Ms. Holt is an advocate for access to better health care and quality health services in the District of Columbia. Her distinguished career was highlighted when she was chosen to be a 2010 Recipient of the Cafritz Award for Distinguished Services for District of Columbia employees. Ms. Holt has served in other capacities including: Health Systems Administrator in the DC Department of Health ; Assistant Executive Director for Administrative Support Services at the DC General Hospital; Coordinator Managed Care and Primary Health Care at DC General Hospital ; Administrator for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services for the Commission of Public Health, Washington, DC; Assistant Administrator of the Neurology and Rehabilitation Inpatient floors and the Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Outpatient Clinics for the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida and Director of the Central Intake and Detoxification Unit for Metropolitan Dade County, and Administrator of the Liberty Center Health Services Center for Metropolitan Dade County. Ms. Holt served as a visiting professor at the Florida International University, Department of Health Services Administration, School of Public Affairs and Services in Miami, Florida. Ms. Holt has a B.A. from Alabama Agriculture

and Mechanical University, Normal, Alabama and an MBA from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

## **Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

### **Director—Hanseul Kang; Designee—Heidi Schumacher**

Hanseul Kang became DC's state superintendent of education in March 2015. She previously served as chief of staff for the state of Tennessee's Department of Education. A seasoned leader and former high school teacher, she reorganized and restructured the department to reflect strategic priorities, and created a more streamlined budget process that allowed for improved personnel decision-making and better use of resources. Kang was part of the team that implemented policies and offered support to districts and schools that resulted in Tennessee becoming one of the fastest improving states in the nation in student achievement outcomes. Prior to joining Tennessee's education department, Kang worked for Teach For America, where she was a managing director of program for the organization's regional office in the District. She led a team of program directors supporting middle and high school teachers in schools across the District and Prince George's County. Kang holds a Bachelor's Degree in international politics from Georgetown University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and was a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar. She is a member of Chiefs for Change and serves on the Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.

Dr. Heidi Schumacher joined the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education as the Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness in Summer 2017. Before this role, she worked for DC Public Schools where she oversaw student health and wellness services, accommodations for students with medical needs, and Medicaid reimbursement. Prior to coming to DCPS, she was a Medical Officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, where she led a multi-disciplinary team in the development and implementation of the Oncology Care Model, a national multi-payer pilot that aligns financial incentives for physician practices with high quality, coordinated care for cancer patients. Her federal policy experience has also included advocacy on behalf of children's health during the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and in support of reforms to the structure and funding of medical education. Dr. Schumacher is a graduate of Duke University and the University of Vermont College of Medicine. She completed her residency and chief residency in pediatrics at Children's National Health System, where she trained in health policy, community health, and government affairs. She completed the Albert Schweitzer Public Health Fellowship and has engaged in numerous research, community engagement, and educational initiatives related to social determinants of health and continuity of care in pediatrics. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), serves as the co-chair of the School Health Committee of the DC chapter of the AAP, and is a regular collaborator with the AAP's Department of Federal Affairs.